



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/735,697	12/12/2000	Noel Lee	P1230	6750

7590 02/03/2012  
LaRIVIERE, GRUBMAN & PAYNE, LLP  
P.O. BOX 3140  
MONTEREY,, CA 93942

EXAMINER
----------

DEBERADINIS, ROBERT L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2836

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

02/03/2012

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/735,697	LEE, NOEL	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	ROBERT DEBERADINIS	2836	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on \_\_\_\_; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 58-6Z is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 58-6Z is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)<br>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)<br>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.<br>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application<br>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |
|---|---|

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The reply filed 11/29/11 consists of arguments related to the rejection of the claims.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 11/29/11 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant has submitted claims that have been rejected and argued before the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals found these arguments not persuasive. Claims 58-67 stand rejected with the same rejections affirmed by the Board of Appeals.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained through the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 58-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DWIGHT Des. 401,220 in view of BARNA 5,775,935 in further view of MOSS 5,862,774.

Regarding claims 58,59,60,61,64,65,,66,

DWIGHT discloses a design patent disclosing a power strip housing having a plurality of AC outlets having different hatching around different AC outlets of

the power strip obviously providing a means for identifying one AC outlet from another AC outlet on the power strip.

DWIGHT is silent as to the hatching being a representation for color markings around the different AC outlets for selectively identifying one AC outlet from another AC outlet on the power strip.

BARNA discloses figure 2A is shaded (hatching) depicting coloration on color coded alignment strip (col. 2, lines 54,55).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have interpreted the hatching, around the AC outlets, as color markings around the different AC outlets for selectively identifying one AC outlet from another AC outlet on the power strip.

BARNA discloses system and method using a color coded tag to tag a power cable (column 5, lines 26-45) of a device wherein the color of the power cord connection cable corresponds with the color of the color coded alignment strip or indicia (column 5, lines .15-7) and that the colors located near or proximate to the connection port aids a user in determining which cable should be connected with which corresponding connection port (column 5, lines 60-62).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of this invention to tag a power cord of a device with the corresponding color of the power outlet on the power strip. The motivation would be to provide an indication as to which device is not plugged into the power strip (column 6, lines 27, 28).

The above references do not disclose providing colored indicia adjacent to each color-coded outlet, the indicia having a background color identical to its adjacent color-coded outlet for identifying devices assigned to each colored area.

MOSS 5,862,774 discloses marking method and system for identifying a wire associated with a particular circuit or to be installed in a particular electrical circuit is disclosed. A wire marker includes an identifier and color indicia. The identifier is associated with a particular electrical circuit in which the wire is to be connected. The color indicia, corresponds to a particular color or wire color associated with that particular electrical circuit (abstract).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided colored indicia for adjacent to each color coded outlet, the indicia having the color identical to its color coded outlet for identifying devices assigned to each color when the color area includes a plurality of devices the power strip having several identical outlets colored as a group of outlets the color indicia corresponding to the outlet group color and the identifier is associated with a particular device.

Regarding claims 62,66

DWIGHT Des. in view of BARNA in further view of MOSS disclose the method recited in claim 63.

MOSS discloses wherein the unique identifier comprises numbers.

MOSS does not disclose wherein the unique identifier comprises one or more printed words and abbreviations thereof.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have substituted printed words and abbreviations thereof if words were desired over numbers to identify devices.

Regarding claim 67

The above references disclose the apparatus of claim 67.

The above references are silent as to the apparatus having over current and noise protection elements.

The Examiner takes official notice. The power strip is a well known device in the art and over current protection and noise protection are common features included in a power strip to protect devices such that are plugged into the power strip.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

HALPERN discloses figure one is shaded (hatching) to show coloration of the various sets of blocks (col. 2, lines 55-57).

Applicant's own figure 2 uses hatching and shading to show coloration.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert L. DeBeradinis whose number is (571) 272-2049. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Jared Fureman can be reached on (571) 272-2391. The Fax phone number for this Group is (571) 272-8300.  
RLD

JANUARY 27, 2012

/Robert DeBeradinis/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2836

